

Activity/Subactivity Summary

Activity: National Recreation and Preservation

Subactivity: Natural Programs

Program Components	2002 Enacted	FY 2003			Change From 2002 (+/-)
		Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Rivers and Trails Studies	919	+2	-2	919	0
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance	8,213	+74	-59	8,228	+15
National Natural Landmarks	992	+8	-7	993	+1
Hydropower Recreation Assistance	806	+8	-6	808	+2
Total Requirements	10,930	+92	-74	10,948	+18

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 1271 - 1287	The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended
16 U.S.C. 1241 - 1249	The National Trails System Act, as amended
16 U.S.C. 460/ - 460/-3	The Outdoor Recreation Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 797(e), 803(a)	The Federal Power Act, as amended
16 U.S.C. 1a-5	National Park Service Organic Act, as amended
16 U.S.C. 1273	Historic Sites Act of 1935
16 U.S.C. 1-5	General Authorities Act of 1970, as amended
16 U.S.C. 1908	Mining in the National Parks Act of 1976
Public Law 104-333	Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996

Overview

Natural Programs include the development and completion of Congressionally mandated studies of river and trail routes for possible inclusion in the National Scenic and Historic Trails or Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems; programs to increase river and trail opportunities through State and local technical assistance; the national trails programs; the management of the National Natural Landmarks program; and programs to assist in the development of agreements with hydropower facilities/projects that impact public access to river and recreational resources.

Applicable National Service Mission Goals

- IIIa** Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs.
- IIIb** Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc** Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use.

Subactivity: Natural Programs
Program Component: Rivers and Trails Studies
FY 2002 Enacted: \$0.919 million

FY 2001 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

River and trail studies are undertaken when authorized by Congress and may be the responsibility of Interior, Agriculture or the joint responsibility of both departments. Select **rivers** and **trails** which show the potential to be authorized by Congress go through extensive research before studies are forwarded to Congress.

Rivers. In order to be considered, a river must be in free-flowing condition and possess one or more of the following values to a remarkable degree: scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values.

Trails. Selection is based on the national significance of the route and the recreational or historic resources along the route.

In addition to the basic prerequisites, **rivers** and **trails** are assessed for their feasibility. A determination of feasibility is based on costs that would be entailed in designating the site, impact on the surrounding environment, timeliness of such action, recreation opportunities, and local or State interest in acting to protect and manage the resource.

At a Glance...

- A river study must receive Presidential recommendation before being sent to Congress. If authorized, it becomes part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.
- A trail study is sent to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior. If authorized, it becomes a part of the National Trails System.

- The NPS is currently studying the following rivers: Musconetcong (New Jersey), New (Virginia and West Virginia), and the Taunton River (Massachusetts) in FY 2002.
- The NPS is conducting a study of the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and the Washington-Rochambeau Trail. These studies will continue into FY 2003.

Remaining available funds would be used in FY 2003 to:

- support follow-up activities authorized in legislation for several recently designated wild and scenic rivers such as the Concord, Wekiva, and lower Delaware
- support congressionally directed studies for areas that might be designated as heritage corridors, tour routes, affiliated areas or other similar designations that respond to local initiatives but are not units of the national park system.

FY 2003 Budget Request: Rivers and Trails Studies

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Enacted Budget	919
Programmatic Changes	
• Travel reduction	-2
TOTAL, Program Changes¹	-2
Uncontrollable changes	+2
FY 2003 Budget Request	919
Net change	No Change

¹Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

Subactivity: Natural Programs
Program Component: Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance
FY 2002 Enacted: \$8.213 million

FY 2002 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

Every year, the National Park Service is approached by over a thousand local leaders seeking help in preserving, enhancing, and developing their communities to be healthier and more livable places. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program provides advice and assistance to local governments and citizens' groups as they develop strategies to reach their communities' goals.

This low-cost investment by the Federal Government helps partner organizations and local governments benefit from lessons learned elsewhere in the country. It also helps them successfully navigate the imposing array of resources and strategies available through Federal agencies and non-governmental groups.

This program adheres to the following key principles:

- Projects are undertaken only at the request of a local community.
- The NPS generally concludes its involvement within two years.
- Tangible benefits for recreation or conservation are expected.
- A high level of public participation in planning efforts is encouraged and valued.
- Grant funding from the NPS is not supplied; rather, NPS staff seeks to help their project partners leverage necessary funding through public-private partnerships.

Communities aided by the Service vary widely, from small, rural communities to metropolitan Dallas to neighborhoods in the Bronx. Some partners are relatively sophisticated agencies of local governments or established nonprofit groups, while others are groups newly formed to accomplish a single vision, such as a new trail or a greenway. For instance, chambers of commerce, youth volunteer service corps, garden clubs, and natural resource districts have all been NPS partners through this program.

While these partners each seek to accomplish unique projects, their efforts often can be categorized as follows:

- **Greenway Development.** Most Americans' primary contact with nature and the outdoors comes through close-to-home trails and greenways. NPS helps communities plan and protect a wide variety of greenways, from urban promenades to buffers of natural wildness. The Service has been very successful in helping partner communities access Federal "TEA-21" transportation funding for this purpose.
- **River Conservation Planning.** The National Park Service offers assistance that helps communities conserve important rivers. Projects such as downtown river greenways and watershed protection programs not only benefit natural resources but also bolster local economies by enhancing recreational potential and property values. Moreover, millions of dollars in Federal disaster assistance and flood insurance payments can be prevented through sound river planning that reclaims flood-prone land as park and open space when flooded property owners choose to relocate.
- **Rail-To-Trail Conversions.** The Service helps communities to recycle abandoned railway corridors by converting them into popular "rail-trails." The Service alerts communities whenever an abandonment of a nearby rail right-of-way is imminent. Approximately 400 such notices were provided in FY 2001, resulting in rail-trail planning for approximately 50 proposed abandonments covering thousands of miles of potential trails.

NPS staff for this program are based in 34 field locations to make them more readily accessible to nonprofit organizations and local and State governments in all 50 States. In FY 2002, the Service was able to formally help 115 that requested assistance with their projects.

By working side-by-side with grassroots groups and local governments in communities throughout the country, NPS is building a nationwide system of parks, open spaces, rivers, and trails. The program's goal is to add miles of trails and protected river corridors, and acres of parkland and protected open space that will provide the Nation with educational, recreational, and conservation benefits.

GPRA results are measured both for customer satisfaction immediately following NPS assistance as well as for tangible, measurable preservation or enhancement of river, trail, and open space resources. The Service generally is most involved in these projects only during their early stages, helping local partners develop a project vision and a strategy for bringing the vision to life. Full implementation of NPS-assisted projects typically takes place several years following Park Service involvement; GPRA performance measures are thus designed to assess results five years following NPS involvement.

Performance Goals

Goal IIIb1. Protect conservation areas and provide recreational opportunities through assistance to state and local government and nonprofit groups

Target	Measure	Goals	
		Annual FY 2003	Long-term FY 2005
National recreation and preservation areas	Added to NPS since 1997		
	Miles of trail	7,400	8,400
	Miles of river corridor	4,600	6,600
	Acres of park and open space	876,900	1,113,300

Goal IIIb2. Partner with communities to provide additional recreational opportunities and protect resources

Target	Measure	Goals	
		Annual FY 2003	Long-term FY 2005
Community recreation opportunities and resource protection	Percent of communities satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation benefits on land and waters	94.4%	95.0%

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Performance measures	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Estimate
Trails: Miles protected	2,227	500	500
Rivers: Miles protected	1,037	685	685
Open space: Acres protected	279,026	20,000	20,000
Customer satisfaction: Percent of communities served that were satisfied with assistance	95.7%	95%	95%

* Miles and acres protected are counted five years after a technical assistance project is completed, because local initiatives to protect the resources or construct the trails generally take at least five years to complete.

FY 2003 Budget Request: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Enacted Budget	8,213
Programmatic Changes	
• Travel reduction	-59
TOTAL, Program Changes¹	-59
Uncontrollable changes	+74
FY 2003 Budget Request	8,218
Net change	+15

¹Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

Subactivity: Natural Programs
Program Component: National Natural Landmarks
FY 2002 Enacted: \$0.992 million

FY 2002 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

Qualified sites are evaluated by the National Park Service and designated National Natural Landmarks (NNL) by the Secretary of the Interior. NNL program responsibilities include monitoring the condition of designated sites, providing liaison with landowners, fostering partnerships with Federal, State, local, and municipal agencies and conservation organizations, providing program information to interested parties, and securing technical assistance to landmark owners or arranging for designation ceremonies when requested.

Evaluation of sites for potential designation as new NNLs continues in FY 2002. Internet-based information on the NNL program is also being upgraded. The NNL program is continuing to coordinate with the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program, network of Cooperative Ecosystems Study Units, and engage in partnerships with academic institutions in various aspects of achieving the program's objectives.

In FY 2002, work continues on the boundary adjustments needed to process withdrawals from existing NNLs; this includes identification and mapping of the owner's parcel boundaries, modification of the NNL boundary, and reviews by the National Park System Advisory Board prior to the Secretary's approval. All NNL boundary maps are being revised using Geographic Information Systems to improve their accuracy and clarity.

FY 2003 Budget Request: National Natural Landmarks

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Enacted Budget	992
Programmatic Changes	
• Travel reduction	-7
TOTAL, Program Changes¹	-7
Uncontrollable changes	+8
FY 2003 Budget Request	993
Net change	+1

¹Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

Subactivity: Natural Programs
Program Component: Hydropower Recreation Assistance
FY 2002 Enacted: \$0.806 million

FY 2002 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments

Hydropower Recreation Assistance presents numerous opportunities for river conservation and enhancement of water-based recreation that are fully compatible with continuing and future operations of hydropower facilities. Hydropower utilities are required to consult with the National Park Service under the Federal Power Act, as amended. The NPS makes recommendations and is often involved in collaborative settlement negotiations with hydropower companies and local recreational interests. Many utility companies have found Park Service assistance valuable in reaching agreements to improve recreational access to rivers and protect recreational experiences for all users. The NPS facilitates negotiations, makes recommendations, designs whitewater boating studies, and works with power companies and user groups to lessen conflicts among industry, boaters, and anglers.

Full implementation of recreation-related mitigation efforts may take place several years after the National Park Service involvement; GPRA performance measures within this component are designed to examine local results following settlement signing and/or the issuing of a new hydropower operation license. This program has achieved the protection of hundreds of miles of river corridor and trails, and thousands of acres of open space, including such successful projects as:

- Lower Chippewa River, WI: re-regulation of upstream flows to provide more uniform flows in 61 downstream miles of river; instream recreational flow releases in the original river channel to enhance recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat; recreational provisions including canoe portages, mobility-impaired access, and improved shoreline fishing access and trails; protection and management of over 2,500 acres of project land; and establishment of a Natural Resource Protection Fund of \$0.5 million and a Fish Protection Fund of \$3.25 million.
- Indian Pond - Kennebec River, ME: reduced fees charged to recreational users; improved access for boating and fishing; improved sanitation facilities; instream recreational flow releases for both boating and fishing, scheduled to minimize conflicts; reductions in winter drawdowns; increased minimum flows for wildlife; enhancements to reduce erosion and increase fish spawning areas; restoration of 2,690 acres of wetlands; protection and management of over 1,600 acres of lands; establishment of a Fisheries Habitat Restoration Fund of \$673,000.

In FY 2002, the Park Service is working on 67 major re-licensing projects in 23 states, an increase from 37 major projects in 22 states in FY 2001. Staff are also providing technical assistance on an additional 31 projects and are available to assist with proposals for new hydropower development, especially in Alaska, where interest and opportunities for new hydro facilities are greatest. Additional attention is being given to historical and archeological issues associated with FERC licensing consultations. Staff provide technical assistance to help implement recreational provisions of settlement agreements for hydropower licenses and are beginning to explore opportunities to expedite the hydro licensing process by working with Rivers & Trails staff to develop community partnerships that will develop goals and plans in advance of the licensing process. With the increase in staff since FY 2000, the Park Service is able to provide a higher level of assistance to considerably more projects, further fulfill responsibilities to consult with license applicants, and begin to address the increasing number of applications for hydropower licenses. Park Service staff are now actively working on hydropower licensing from offices in Alaska, California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Utah, Tennessee, Washington, and Wisconsin, with a coordinator in Washington, D.C.

FY 2003 Budget Request: Hydropower Recreation Assistance

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Enacted Budget	806
Programmatic Changes	
• Travel reduction	-6
TOTAL, Program Changes¹	-6
Uncontrollable changes	+8
FY 2003 Budget Request	808
Net change	+2

¹Justification for program changes can be found at the end of this activity's presentation.

Justification Of Total FY 2003 Budget Request For Natural Programs

Request Component	Amount
FY 2002 Enacted Request	10,930
Programmatic Changes	
• Travel reduction	-74
TOTAL, Program Changes	-74
Uncontrollable changes	+92
FY 2003 Budget Request	10,948
Net change	18

Travel Expenses: -\$0.074 million

The NPS proposes to effect savings of \$0.074 million in this program by reducing travel and associated costs by implementing management reforms to achieve savings.